

Press Release



For business and local editors

Westmoreland Community Identifies Issues & Highlights Advantages of the County

Over 1,400 people have contributed to the comprehensive planning process thus far

Greensburg, PA., Dec. 5, 2016 – The Westmoreland County Department of Planning and Development has received a strong response to the initial phases of the Comprehensive Plan update, Reimagining Our Westmoreland.

Over 100 community members attended the two community workshops held on November 9 and November 16. Top issues and concerns identified at those workshops include:

- Alack of public transportation
- An absence of a culturally diverse population
- A shortage of workers with necessary job skills and training
- A need for better collaboration among the county and municipalities
- The declining and aging population

Top priority actions discussed at the workshops address the top issues directly with some slight deviation:

- Improving transportation and transit throughout the county, as well as better access to Pittsburgh
- Creating job training opportunities through a coordinated effort between businesses, schools and nonprofit agencies
- Making the county more attractive to young professionals through increased job opportunities, entertainment, and cultural offerings
- Fostering a welcoming and accepting environment for people of diverse cultures

Those who live and work in the county have been encouraged to take an online survey. This survey is available on the Reimagining Our Westmoreland website. Survey respondents stated that the top three advantages to living in the county are:

- Family
- Schools
- Housing costs

Respondents suggested that the top three focus areas of the plan should be:

- Transportation and access
- Development and growth
- Schools/education

Anyone interested in getting involved with Reimagining Our Westmoreland is encouraged to visit the plan's website, take the survey, and attend an upcoming community workshop. Three workshops are scheduled for December and more will be held in 2017.

December 6, 2016

Penn State New Kensington
(Conference Center Room 51
3350 7th Street Rd
New Kensington, PA 15068)
3:00 – 5:00 PM
Facilitator: Smart Growth
Partnership of Westmoreland
County

December 7, 2016

Four Seasons Brewing Co.
(745 Lloyd Ave Exd
Latrobe, PA 15650)
5:00 – 7:00 PM
Facilitator: Westmoreland
County Planning

December 12, 2016

Knead Community Café
(1011 Barnes St
New Kensington, PA 15068)
6:00 – 8:00 PM
Facilitator: Smart Growth
Partnership of Westmoreland
County

About Reimagining Our Westmoreland:

Reimagining Our Westmoreland will be a comprehensive strategy and policy guide for County officials, while also providing high-level strategic guidance to local governments, industry leaders, nonprofits, service providers, and many others. It represents an opportunity to think more regionally about solving critical policy issues that face us all. Some of the issues the plan may address include economic development, diversity, workforce competitiveness, housing, transportation, conservation and recreation, arts and culture, and infrastructure.

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